

REMARKS

Claims 17-21 are pending. Applicants elect Group V (claims 17-21) for examination on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute nonelected subject matter in a further patent application.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Gary R. Tanigawa
Reg. No. 43,180

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100